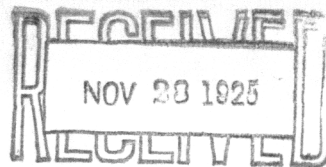


DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
BUREAU OF FISHERIES



BY

Juneau, Alaska, Nov. 23, 1925.

DEC 4 - 1925

ANNUAL REPORT OF WORK IN SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA FOR YEAR 1925.

Active operations began after arrival at Juneau, on March 8th.

After preparations to go on seal patrol, left Juneau on Bureau boat "Murre" on March 18th, arriving at Sitka on the 20th. On account of stormy weather, the Indians did not go out to take seal until May 6th. During the intervening time, between March 20th and May 6th, a constant patrol was kept on the herring fisheries at Sitka and vicinity, with occasional investigation of locations where it was alleged fur seal were seen at points contiguous to Sitka Sound.

Only one boat went out sealing May 6th and 8th, and two boats on May 11, 14, 15, 21, 22, 23, 27, and June 1, 2, 4, taking a total of 189 male, 50 female, and 40 unborn pups taken from the females. (Attention is invited to special report of June 6th and supplementary report of July 23, 1925.)

On June 11th, active operations began on salmon patrol and continued for the remainder of the season in the Icy Strait-Cross Sound district August 11th and from September 5th to October 15th inclusive, several trips being made to the upper part of Lynn Canal in connection with the closed area of all waters north of the south end of the first islands south of Seduction Point. (Attention is invited to daily report June 17, July 7, 31, and August 1, 12, 13, 1925, and special report of August 16, 1925).

At 9.24 A.M. on Sunday, June 21, 1925, a fishery violation

occurred by the Pacific American Fisheries floating trap Number 1 Territory license 25-023, located on the north shore of Icy Strait, 7-1/2 miles from the Pacific American Fisheries cannery at Excursion Inlet. (Attention is invited to daily report of June 21, 1925, and special report of June 29, 1925).

On June 22, 1925, complaint was filed charging Charles C. Miller with violation of Act of June 6, 1924. On August 15, 1925, case #1793-B Chas. C. Miller was arraigned before the District Court where plea of guilty was entered, and fine of \$25. with costs of \$3.80 was assessed.

On June 24 and 25, watchmen were placed on the following streams: - Red Salmon stream 1/2 mile southeast of Astoria & Puget Sound Canning Co. cannery at Excursion Inlet; Pavlof Harbor, and Tenakee Inlet, and on July 1st stream watchmen were placed at Howard Bay, Port Frederick, Basket Bay, Kootznahoo Inlet, Kelp Bay, Red Bluff Bay, and Gut Bay on the east coast of Baranoff Island. (Attention is invited to daily reports of June 24 and 25, and July 1 and 2, 1925).

Stream guards were discontinued at creeks, bays, and inlets, on the following dates:

Tenakee Inlet	)	
Pavlof Harbor, Freshwater Bay	)	<u>August 21, 1925.</u>
Hood Bay, North Arm,	)	
Sitkho Bay	)	<u>August 23, 1925.</u>
Basket Bay	)	
Glacier Bay	)	<u>August 29, 1925.</u>

Stream watchman from Bartlett Cove was moved to Glacier Bay on August 28, 1925. (Attention is invited to daily report of August 27-28, 1925.)

Idaho Inlet	)	<u>Sept. 15, 1925.</u>
Game Creek, Port Frederick	)	
Hillman Creek           "	)	<u>Sept. 16, 1925.</u> (Attention
Excursion Inlet	)	is invited to daily reports of
Dundas Bay	)	Sept. 13,14,15,16, 1925).

Stream watchmen at Chilkat and Chilkoot were taken in on Sept. 30, 1925.

Between Sept. 5th and October 15th, in compliance with fishery regulation of August 14, 1925, there were four drift gill netsboats and four men operating three set gill nets each, one man operating one set gill net in the Chilkat Inlet; in all seven Indians and three white men. There could be no more Indians induced to go fishing.

From October 16th to November 13th was spent in marking streams in the Icy Strait-Cross Sound district and in that part of the central district between False Bay, Chatham, and Rodman Bay, Peril Strait inclusive, also Hood Bay, Kelp Bay, Kootznahoo Inlet. Owing to stormy weather, there were only 56 creeks marked, and there are 50 more streams to be marked in the same area. Two markers at the head of an Inlet were sufficient for three streams, and in one case, four markers were used for one stream.

Active operations closed on November 13, 1925, on account of stormy weather.

On October 10, 1925, eight Indians were found fishing and using gill nets above the mouth of the river at the head of Excursion Inlet. They told the writer they were taking the fish for local food requirements and for dog feed. It was learned afterwards that they were taking the fish for commercial purposes and complaint was filed on October 10th, and on October 20th the writer was held under subpoena to appear before the Grand Jury on November 23rd. The violation at this writing has not yet reached the Grand Jury, <sup>as</sup> they are otherwise occupied.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

The writer recommends that commercial fishing for salmon, except by trolling, be prohibited in the Icy Strait-Cross Sound district from January 1st to July 11th inclusive, in order to allow the first run of salmon to go into the spawning beds, as this run is the most depleted.

The above regulation would, to a large extent, prevent the taking of salmon from one district to another, (except where the canneries are contiguous to the dividing line of the district) for the reason that on and after July 12th there would be salmon in all districts and the canneries are not likely to send their boats to pick up fish elsewhere when there is salmon close by. This would prevent the over-fishing in the Icy Strait-Cross Sound district (it having the earliest run in Southeastern Alaska except Dry Bay in the Yakutat district) and no cannery would have an advantage on account of geographical location.

It is also recommended that there be a 60 hour closed period each week and fishing be allowed to continue during the remainder of the year, as the 60 hour weekly closed period will allow enough fish from each run to get into the spawning beds. The closing down of fishing from January 1st to July 11th would build up and conserve the first run of salmon and the writer believes it would be more equitable to the fishing interests, i.e. both the canneries and fishermen, to have a continuous season, and in the last analysis, the canneries would be benefitted by the building up of the earlier runs of fish if it were continued for only one cycle of four years.

It is suggested that the 60 hour closed period be set at three nights and two days, beginning at 6 o'clock P. M. on Friday, and continuing until 6 o'clock A.M. on Monday, or 6 o'clock P.M. on Saturday until 6 o'clock A.M. on Tuesday. This, however, would be a matter for the Commissioner to determine.

The reason the writer recommends the three nights rather than three days is that the salmon travel further at night than during the day and for that reason they would go further in three nights and two days than they would in three days and two nights.

The following paragraph, while not directly connected with the conservation of fish and perhaps should not be taken up by the writer, is of sufficient importance to the industry to be taken up and considered. The industry will be benefitted by the closed period until July 12th by not having to put in their traps until one month later, thus insuring them fine weather and no delays on account of storms in preparing for their pack. This would be a saving to the Canneries in the total cost of putting up the pack.

It is also recommended that if possible the number of stream watchmen be increased as this is the best method of protecting the streams on account of the radius of the patrol boats being limited due to their lack of speed. The distance between the streams prohibits the watchmen from covering more than one or two streams and the speed and number of the boats are very limited for the purpose of patrol work.

Operators from Dixon's Entrance on the south, to and including Yakutat on the north, claim that the run of salmon were late this year

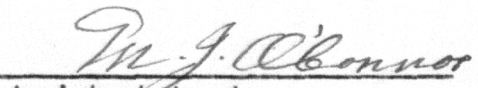
and they point to the large number of salmon that were in the bays, inlets, rivers, and creeks after fishing was closed down on and after July 20th in the Yakutat district; after August 6th in the Icy Strait district; after August 11th in the Central District between the 57th and 58th parallel of north latitude; after August 22nd in the Prince of Wales Island District; and after August 18th in the Southern District.

It is true there were large numbers of salmon but it is also true that there were none of them taken and they would naturally show in large quantities in bays, inlets, rivers, and creeks. The writer believes that the run was no larger than it had been running right along from July 12th, but that there was intensive fishing between July 12th and the time of closing for each district.

The salmon being taken, there would not be so many of them show in the bays, inlets, rivers, and creeks.

In case the Commissioner puts into effect the above regulation, viz. the closing of the Northern District until July 12th, except for trolling, there will be large numbers of salmon seen in all bays, inlets, rivers, and creeks between June 5th and July 12th and the claim will be made that there are more salmon in the District than there has been for years past for the reason that none would be taken and they would show up in large quantities.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Assistant Agent.